(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Transfer of employees

4462. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the formation of East Central Railway—headquartered at Hajipur—a number of Eastern Railways employees were transferred;

(b) if so, furnish the number of vacancies in Eastern Railway in the wake of above mentioned transfers; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to fill those posts; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. 628 staff from Eastern Railway have so far been transferred to East Central Railway, Hajipur on the basis of options called from the employees.

(b) and (c) 43% Group 'C' and 'D' posts from Headquarter Office of Eastern Railway are identified to be transferred to East Central Railway, Hajipur. Since all the posts to be transferred may not be vacant, for the present, only vacant posts are being transferred. This process will continue till reduction in 43% of posts in Eastern Railway Headquarter Office is achieved. Further, all the optees are now being transferred to East Central Railway, Hajipur alongwith their posts. Therefore, the question of vacancies occurring in Eastern Railway in the wake of above transfers does not arise.

Shortage of goods train

†4463. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of goods trains is causing difficulty in the carriage of goods;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problem; and

(c) the details of special efforts being made by Government to increase the participation of railways in goods carriage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways have transported 518.48 million tonnes of freight traffic in the year 2002-03 surpassing the target of 515 million tonnes. This was an incremental loading of 5.38 per cent and Indian Railways were, broadly, able to meet the requirement of all the major consumers.

To increase the participation of Railways in goods carriage, Indian Railways are constantly taking various steps, which include :

(i) Rationalisation of freight tariff.

(ii) Procurement of more Railway wagons.

(iii) Incentives to Railway customers like grant of station to station rates.

(iv) Encouraging Railway customers to participate in Railway transport system through schemes like 'own your wagon', development of integrated warehouses at Railway terminals etc.

(v) Augmentation of transport capacity on rail routes covered by Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals.

(vi) Improving rail connectivity with Ports.

Jan Shatabdi passing through various States

†4464. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Jan Shatabdi Express trains introduced recently alongwith their routes;

(b) the number of Jan Shatabdi trains out of these which are running in profit and the number of those running in loss and the position of the Jan Shatabdi trains running in or passing through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; and

(c) whether Stopping the operation of some Jan Shatabdi trains is under consideration; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) (a) Details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.